

CITY COUNCIL & MANAGER

The City Council provides policy direction for developing and sustaining the economic and environmental health of the community. The City Manager's Office implements the policy directives into programs and services in an efficient and responsive manner.



Overview

The City Council exercises its authority through the enactment of laws; the adoption of the annual budget; the approval of contracts and specific projects; and the approval to pursue grant funds to assist with the vision of the City. The City Manager's duties include: submitting the annual budget; advising the City Council on matters affecting the City; administering and overseeing City operations; and appointing and removing City personnel.

Finance and Operations

The General Fund finances the operations of the City Council and City Manager's Office, with personal services accounting for 83 percent of the 2002 operating budget. A secretarial position was added in 2001 to improve customer service in the City Council office. In addition, the City Council budget reflects salary increases for the Council Members and Mayor in accordance with the new City ordinance. The budget includes several key elements. One Management Intern, previously funded from the WSU Management Trainee fund, is reflected in the City Council 2002 budget. Funding continues for the leadership positions Council members hold with the National League of Cities and other key governmental associations.

City Council establishes policy direction for the City by enacting ordinances, laws, and policies, adopting the budget, levying taxes, and appointing members to the new District Advisory Boards (DAB) and other citizen advisory boards and commissions. The seven-member Council is elected to four-year terms on a nonpartisan basis with staggered terms of office. Six Council members are elected by district, and the Mayor is elected at-large.



City Council during a regular Tuesday meeting.

The City Council meets every Tuesday in the Council Chambers with 98 percent attendance in 2000. Workshops are also held for an in-depth study of projects and issues. Official action is generally not initiated at workshop sessions.

A remodel of the first floor, including the City Council Chambers and offices, is under design. The remodel will incorporate state of the art technology for the presentation of agendas and reports; provide better accessibility for disabled citizens; improve the quality and



functions of the sound system; and provide a more ergonomic and aesthetically pleasing environment for citizens, Council members, and City staff. The remodel is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2001.

The City Council coordinates efforts and establishes relationships with other elected officials at all levels of government. Members of the Council represent the City in several national and international organizations. In 2000, the Mayor served as the President of the National League of Cities (NLC), an organization representing 18,000 cities nationwide, and was named Municipal Leader of the Year by the American City and County publication. The Mayor continues to represent the city on the NLC Board of Directors as a former NLC President.

Currently, two Council members are serving on the NLC Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee and NLC Human Development Steering Committee, with another Council member serving on the NLC Board of Directors and Finance Committee. The Mayor is active in the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and Public Technology Incorporated.

Wichita is an active participant in the Sister Cities International program. The program's goals include enriching community life through exhibits, tours, and exchanges; providing a setting for meeting community leaders from cities around the world; creating opportunities for cultural activities and exchanges; providing host families for visitors from Wichita's Sister Cities; and supporting student exchange programs for students from Wichita's Sister Cities.

Wichita's Sister Cities are Tlalneptla and Cancun, Mexico; Orleans, France; and Kaifeng, China. Council members represent the City both when receiving visitors and when visiting Sister Cities.

City Manager's Office has primary responsibility for the responsiveness to citizens, one of its most prominent responsibilities. Numerous citizen contacts are handled each day in the City Manager's Office, ranging from telephone and electronic mail inquiries to faxes. On average, the Manager's Office receives 250 telephone contacts, 100 faxes, and 100 letters and e-mails per day from citizens and business people requesting information or assistance.

The City Manager continually assesses the growing needs of the community to determine if adequate services are available. Numerous public agencies, local organizations and businesses collaborate with the City Manager's office regarding current and potential service needs.

Every year, the City Manager establishes priorities as communicated by Council and directs the Finance Department in the development of a budget that is submitted to Council for adoption. The annual budget is a tool utilized to allocate funding for new programs and services; eliminate ineffective programs and services; and expand existing programs and services to better meet the changing needs of the community.

In January 2001, the City Manager's Office launched a Customer Service initiative to revitalize the City employees' focus on the quality of service provided to the citizens. The goal is to ensure that citizens

and customers receive "Above and Beyond" customer service while doing business with the City.



The City Manager's Office assists Mayor and City Council with special projects and research. Current projects in which the staff are involved are:

- The creation and development of "Mini City Halls," one in each quadrant of the City, with the goal to become more connected and responsive to neighborhood and citizens needs.
- A Telecommunications plan to ensure citizens and businesses receive the best services available at reasonable rates.
- The design and implementation of a marketing strategy for regional tourism in partnership with the Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- Spearheading the "Don't Trash Wichita" initiative, a three-part strategy for cleaning up the City that includes tougher penalties, litter prevention, and community involvement.
- Partnering with the State of Kansas to organize the Midwest US/Japan Conference.

Additional duties include the preparation of agendas for weekly Council meetings; the staffing of various boards, commissions, and task forces; and the oversight of all departments' programs and activities.

| City Council/City Manager Department Budget Summary | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 2000 Actual | 2001 Adopted | 2001 Revised | 2002 Adopted | 2003 Approved |
| Personal Services | 652,539 | 722,060 | 774,390 | 906,130 | 951,150 |
| Contractual Services | 146,319 | 128,360 | 146,290 | 153,480 | 154,480 |
| Commodities | 32,216 | 22,800 | 25,790 | 25,050 | 25,050 |
| Capital Outlay | 5,075 | 0 | 3,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | -14 | 8,700 | 0 | 5,300 | 5,300 |
| Total Local Expenditures | 836,135 | 881,920 | 949,670 | 1,089,960 | 1,135,980 |
| City Council | 352,938 | 366,980 | 416,790 | 548,580 | 588,770 |
| City Manager's Office | 483,197 | 514,940 | 532,880 | 541,380 | 547,210 |
| General Fund | 836,135 | 881,920 | 949,670 | 1,089,960 | 1,135,980 |
| Grant Resources | 0 | 0 | 50,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Total full-time positions | 16 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| Total part-time positions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total FTE positions | 16 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 17 |



**“Wichita...
a City Achieving the Extraordinary”**